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Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues
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Items 3, 4, 6 and 7 of the provisional agenda*

Discussion on the special theme for the year: "Indigenous peoples: development with culture and identity: articles 3 and 32 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples"

Human rights: (a) implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples; (b) dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous people and other special rapporteurs

Comprehensive dialogue with six United Nations agencies and funds

Future work of the Permanent Forum, including issues of the Economic and Social Council and emerging issues

Reports received from the United Nations system and other intergovernmental organizations

Note by the secretariat

Summary

The summaries of the reports submitted by 12 entities of the United Nations system and other intergovernmental organizations are included in the present note as part of the overall reports received by the secretariat of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. The complete reports are available on the Permanent Forum website (http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/en/session_ninth.html).

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I. Introduction

1. As at 26 January 2010, written submissions to the ninth session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues had been received from 12 United Nations and other intergovernmental entities, namely the African Development Bank, the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea of the Office of Legal Affairs of the Secretariat, the European Union, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the International Labour Organization (ILO), the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and the World Food Programme (WFP). The African Development Bank sent a communication to the Permanent Forum for the first time.

2. The report of the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity will be considered under item 6, "Comprehensive dialogue with six United Nations agencies and funds", and has been issued in full as a document of the session. The present note contains a summary of the contributions by other organizations that are not taking part in the dialogue under item 6. The full text of these contributions has been posted on the website of the Permanent Forum (http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/en/session_ninth.html).

II. African Development Bank

3. Although none of the African Development Bank's policies address indigenous people in particular, the Bank has a number of social and environmental policies that apply to all of its operations, including public and private sector projects and policy-based lending. They are designed to promote environmental sustainability and ensure that the Bank's projects "do no harm" to people or the environment. Relevant policies have been adopted on cooperation with civil society organizations, population, gender and agriculture and rural development.

III. Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea of the Office of Legal Affairs

4. At its eighth session, the Permanent Forum noted the importance of the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea in providing the legal framework for the Arctic Ocean. In its annual resolutions on oceans and the law of the sea, the General Assembly has reaffirmed that the Convention sets out the legal framework within which all activities in the oceans and seas must be carried out. There are currently 160 parties to the Convention, including the European Union.

IV. European Union

5. The European Commission has undertaken a number of measures to protect and promote the rights of indigenous peoples in both the member and non-member States of the European Union. Internally, the European Union has established a legal framework to contribute to the protection of its own indigenous populations, including through provisions to fight discrimination, racism and xenophobia, and has also launched financial programmes to support activities aimed at combating specific instances of these phenomena.

6. With regard to external relations, the principles of European Union engagement with indigenous peoples are applied in the context of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. An internal mechanism within the European Commission ensures the coordination of activities related to indigenous peoples carried out by various Commission services and raises the profile of indigenous peoples' issues in the overall development agenda of the European Union. The specific approaches taken by the European Union include: raising indigenous issues in its bilateral human rights dialogues with third countries; seeking to bring indigenous issues into the mainstream of European Union development cooperation strategies; and raising awareness of indigenous issues among European Commission staff, predominantly through the internal quality support process and staff training. In addition, the European Commission is directly supporting civil society organizations working on indigenous issues, in particular through the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights.

V. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

7. In 2009, FAO continued to engage with indigenous peoples through its activities related to, inter alia, the United Nations Collaborative Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries, nutrition, developments in animal genetic resources for food and agriculture, the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, fisheries and capacity-building. FAO also undertakes activities focused on the land rights of indigenous peoples and on communication for development. FAO is engaged in ongoing activities involving indigenous peoples in most regions. A desk study on projects and programmes in Latin America has been carried out and detailed data are now available for that region. FAO has also been involved in capacity-building initiatives, such as regional training workshops with indigenous peoples, and has also carried out capacity-building activities for FAO staff members. In 2009, FAO participated in a number of conferences on indigenous peoples.

8. In 2009, FAO finalized a draft policy of engagement with indigenous and tribal peoples and, in 2010, its Working Group on Indigenous Issues is moving forward by seeking clearance of the policy, strengthening its collaboration with indigenous peoples and creating strategic mechanisms to implement the policy in member countries and at FAO.

9. FAO emphasizes the concept of "development with culture and identity", which will be the special theme of the ninth session of the Permanent Forum, in all its areas of work involving indigenous peoples, while aiming to develop and apply a holistic approach. In particular, FAO emphasizes the role of culture in sustaining

food and agroecological systems, and thereby community health, development and well-being, in its Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems initiative and in its work on developing cultural indicators for indigenous peoples' food and agroecological systems.

VI. International Fund for Agricultural Development

10. In 2009, IFAD reached an important milestone in its work with indigenous peoples, with the approval, by its Executive Board, of the IFAD Policy on Engagement with Indigenous Peoples. During the course of the year, the Fund continued its strong partnership with the Permanent Forum and volunteered as one of the six United Nations agencies and funds to engage in a comprehensive dialogue with the Forum during its eighth session held in May. The Fund also maintained its active role in the Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Issues.

11. As part of its efforts to maintain a high level of engagement and commitment with indigenous peoples in developing countries, IFAD approved 12 projects in supporting indigenous peoples through loans and grants totalling $114 million in eight countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America. IFAD also approved three global/regional grants, specifically formulated to support indigenous peoples, for a total amount of $1.5 million. An additional 17 grants approved by the Fund targeted indigenous peoples as part of a larger beneficiary group of rural people living in poverty. Through a learning-by-doing approach and with the objective of disseminating information and knowledge, IFAD compiled information on the experiences of the first two rounds of the Indigenous Peoples Assistance Facility and produced a report, entitled "Learning by working together: microprojects funded under the Indigenous Peoples Assistance Facility, IPAF", which will be available on the IFAD website in early 2010.

VII. International Labour Organization

12. In its submission to the ninth session of the Permanent Forum, ILO outlined the main activities of a number of its projects and programmes addressing indigenous issues during 2009 and highlighted the substantive areas of its ongoing work on indigenous issues. The report contains a compilation of information and inputs relevant to indigenous and tribal peoples from different ILO programmes.

13. Through its project to promote ILO policy on indigenous and tribal peoples (PRO 169) within its technical cooperation programme, ILO has worked to promote and implement the rights of indigenous peoples on a global scale and improve their socio-economic situation. ILO efforts in this regard have included the continued provision of technical contributions to international processes to promote indigenous peoples' rights, including through its participation in the Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Issues; the completion of a three-year research project on the situation of indigenous peoples in Africa, which culminated with a comprehensive overview report, adopted by the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights in May 2009; the launch of a regional programme in Latin America to further promote the implementation of indigenous peoples' rights in the region; and the organization of a large regional conference on indigenous child labour, which will be held in Colombia in March 2010. In terms of national efforts to

promote the rights of indigenous peoples, ILO reported on initiatives in Bangladesh, Cambodia, Cameroon, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Namibia and Nepal.

14. Capacity-building is a key element of ILO efforts to promote and implement the rights of indigenous peoples. In 2009, ILO, in collaboration with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, held realized training programmes at ILO headquarters for indigenous fellows in English, French, Russian and Spanish. ILO also conducted regional seminars in Asia and Africa, and capacity-building activities are ongoing in various countries of Africa, Asia and Latin America.

VIII. International Organization for Migration

15. IOM is engaged with indigenous peoples, Governments and various partner organizations in developing and implementing projects that respond to indigenous peoples' particular needs and are culturally appropriate. In 2009, IOM undertook activities on indigenous issues in countries including Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador and Thailand. IOM activities include providing training to assist indigenous victims of trafficking, setting up productive and social infrastructure projects, such as potable water systems, to support the indigenous populations; facilitating the "Finca sana" project in Costa Rica, the aim of which is to improve health and human development among indigenous migrant workers who travel to Costa Rica from Panama; providing assistance and protection to internally displaced persons, with a special emphasis on the protection of indigenous groups' territories; and providing programmes for ex-combatant children and indigenous families who have fallen victim to the violence in Colombia.

16. In 2009, IOM was particularly involved in indigenous peoples' issues in Colombia, where it carried out 29 projects that addressed indigenous issues. The IOM office in Colombia has developed and documented a cross-cutting guideline for its programmes, entitled "Strategy for responding to the needs of ethnic groups", which involves the recognition of the conditions and situation of different social actors, including indigenous peoples. In February 2009, the guide on "How to incorporate a differential focus for ethnic groups in programmes and projects" was revised and updated. The guide was prepared for internal and external project implementers, and in particular counterparts and operators, to promote and facilitate application of the strategy in the formulation, execution, follow-up and evaluation of projects with indigenous and Afro-Colombian communities.

IX. United Nations Children's Fund

17. In 2009, UNICEF continued to actively engage with indigenous peoples at the country and regional levels through various programmes and activities specifically designed to advance the rights of indigenous peoples, and projects ranging from bilingual and intercultural education and culturally sensitive health services to birth registration and the fight against violence, abuse and exploitation. UNICEF also provided technical assistance and conducted research on indigenous issues, and continued to seek increased participation of indigenous peoples in its policies and strategies.

18. UNICEF also continued to play an important role in ensuring that indigenous issues became prominent within the United Nations system, including through its participation in a training of trainers on indigenous peoples' issues, in June 2009. This workshop was aimed at strengthening the capacity of United Nations staff to provide training on how to effectively engage indigenous peoples and bring their rights and issues into the mainstream of development-related work at the country level.

19. UNICEF recently took stock of its work on indigenous issues at global, regional and country levels. The corresponding review covers three main subjects: (a) UNICEF's approach to working with indigenous children and women; (b) content and organizational arrangements of UNICEF's work in support of indigenous children and women at the regional and country levels; and (c) implementation of the approach in two programme/project case study sites (the Congo and Peru). The study will be used as a guide to develop a structured framework for UNICEF to address indigenous issues in its operational activities and was the foundation for discussions held during a consultation on indigenous peoples' and minorities' issues. The consultation led to the formulation of a road map and action proposal in the development of (a) a strategic framework/guidance note; (b) programme guidance; (c) knowledge management; and (d) involvement with international mechanisms on indigenous and minority issues.

X. Department of Public Information

20. The Department of Public Information assisted with the promotion of events and provided thorough coverage of issues and United Nations activities related to indigenous rights throughout 2009 using a variety of media outlets and platforms, including television, video, photo, print, radio and the Internet. The Department's coverage included a range of events, including the deliberations on indigenous issues of the Third Committee and the eighth session of the Permanent Forum. It also covered a wide range of issues, including protection of indigenous knowledge, human rights protection, water rights, ecotourism, natural resources, armed conflict and education. The Department assisted in the design and production of a comprehensive press kit for the launch, in January 2010, of the first-ever report on the state of the world's indigenous peoples, prepared by the Permanent Forum.

21. In 2009, the Department also worked to expand the reach and raise awareness of the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples through a campaign to translate the text of the Declaration into additional languages, with priority given to indigenous languages. The Department has field offices in all of its seven regions, whose activities also included translation into non-official languages and dissemination of information materials, including the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. United Nations information centres in Bogotá, Canberra and Lima also provided assistance to the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous people during his country visits.

XI. Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

22. ECLAC reported on its progress towards the implementation of the recommendations issued by the Permanent Forum in 2009. Main activities in this regard have included advances in the disaggregation by ethnicity of data sources to better reflect the situation of indigenous peoples; the production of relevant studies, including on indigenous peoples' rights and living conditions and on the sexual and reproductive health of indigenous women; and technical assistance to countries in the region for the production and analysis of information on indigenous peoples in national statistical systems. ECLAC has also conducted technical studies, issued policy recommendations and held international seminars on the use of statistical information, with emphasis on the area of health.

XII. World Food Programme

23. WFP provides assistance based on levels of food insecurity, and it is within this context that the Programme addresses indigenous issues. WFP has focused its food security programmes and activities on indigenous peoples in several regions. Through its Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean and 14 country offices (involving the participation of national Governments), WFP is currently developing a regional proposal to locally produce fortified complementary foods using nutritional native foods that have traditionally been used by indigenous peoples for thousands of years. In the Congo, WFP is collaborating with UNICEF and the Ministry of Education to implement school feeding projects to improve access to formal education among pygmy children. In India, WFP is working in several states with above-average levels of food insecurity and malnutrition to support poor and chronically food-insecure households in remote areas with limited access to markets, focusing on tribal communities that rely on declining natural resources and are vulnerable to natural disasters. WFP will help households to develop productive assets and resource management techniques to improve their income level and resilience.

24. WFP has also participated in a number of information-sharing meetings with representatives of indigenous peoples and/or United Nations organizations. For example, in 2009, WFP participated (as facilitator and presenter) in a training-of-trainers workshop for Latin American and Caribbean country teams on the right to food, in the context of the rights of indigenous peoples and Afro-descendants.